

their ability to continue to provide aid to over 2 million displaced victims are insecure as the violence continues.

The time for debating this genocide or declaring it genocide is over. It is time to do something now.

There are only two options, Mr. Speaker, as I leave to go back to my seat. One would be to extend the African Union peacekeeping force mandate; or, two, to send in the U.N. peacekeepers in Sudan, even though the Sudanese Government refuses to accept them.

Of course, Mr. Speaker, there is one other option: To continue to do nothing. For evil to triumph, it is only necessary that good men do nothing.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. EMANUEL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

DARFUR

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order for 5 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentlewoman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, how many times can people say, "Never again," and then proceed to observe the systematic elimination of a people, of genocide? When it happened in Rwanda, we were shocked, horrified. While it was happening and after it happened, we all examined our consciences and said, how could we have let that happen? Never again. That had been said after Bosnia; of course, after the Holocaust, which was the ultimate, of course, genocide.

So here we are with a very well-documented genocide where the people of the world are appalled by it. There is great sadness about the loss of life and displacement of people, much dismay about the fact that the humanitarian assistance cannot be delivered. In fact, some of the humanitarian deliverers of that aid are being killed in the Sudan and Darfur region now. And yet, for some reason, as a country, as a world, we seem incapable of taking the necessary action.

I want to commend DONALD PAYNE for his tremendous leadership on this important issue. With that leadership, some of us went to the Darfur region earlier in the spring of this year. We saw the children. The little ones still sort of had a bright spark in their eyes, the little babies, but as the children got a little bit older, you could see that pall come over them. They had seen too much, pillaging of villages, kidnapping of their fathers, and murder perhaps of their parents, the raping of their mothers; just unthinkable, unimaginable horrible acts of violence

right in front of the children. And in their cases, some of them, too, were victims of the same atrocities that I just named.

We had a great delegation. Congresswoman BARBARA LEE was a very important part of it, and she brought her significant knowledge of Africa and of poverty and of divestment in her initiative to lead the divestment movement in this country, and I hope that in the Senate version of the Darfur Accountability Act that the divestment language will be as written by Congresswoman BARBARA LEE.

The chair of our Congressional Black Cause, Congressman MEL WATT, was on our trip. The chair of our caucus, Chairman CLYBURN, MAXINE WATERS. It was a very distinguished delegation, and we went there with the idea that we would make a difference, that our voices would be heard with much greater authority when we came home.

When we came home, we went to the United Nations and we met with Kofi Annan and said how urgent the situation was and that something had to be done, and we had hoped that it would be just a matter of weeks, that was in March, that something would be done. We met with the President of the United States and offered to work together on the issue of the resolving this terrible, terrible genocide in the Sudan.

But the time has gone by. And we said at the time, we can't wait 6 months. They said, well, we probably can't get a U.N. force in there until 6 months. And we said, no, we can't wait 6 months. These children will be gone by then.

We were in a camp that had 100,000 people. These children, these beautiful little children, were living in huts that were made of just discarded materials. And I couldn't help but think that when we send our aid, whether it is grain or rice or whatever foodstuffs we send in those bags that say "Made in the U.S.A.," you wouldn't have thought that you would see those same bags as huts. That is what people lived in, these bags draped over sticks.

The conditions were unhealthy, contributed to the health problems and the loss of life. The situation was desperate. And still, 6 months later, we are still looking for the answer.

Everybody bears a responsibility for this. The American people certainly care, and they have voiced their concern. College campuses across the country are the scene of rallies for Darfur. Central Park on Sunday and other places throughout the country, people turned out for Darfur. Here in Washington a few months ago, an incredible record-breaking crowd came out. The Jewish community, God bless them, has taken the lead. Rabbi David Sapperstein and others have come together, brought the Jewish community to be a major part of this because they knew and they know what "never again" means.

So let us, in making these statements that we are making tonight, be

part of a resolve that this is a top priority for our country. Last week our delegation, we come together regularly to see how we are doing, where we can make a difference, where we go from here, we met with many of the humanitarian groups that minister to the needs of the people in the Darfur region. They told us that 14 humanitarian deliverers of aid had been killed, as I mentioned. They told us about the horrendous conditions and how it all worsened and how difficult it was to deliver the aid. And we promised them that we would make an even more concerted effort.

So we wrote to the President, talked about the deteriorating situation in Darfur, and we did ask him to appoint a special envoy, and we are very pleased that he made that announcement at the U.N. this week and that there would be an extension, a request to the African Union to renew its mandate until a U.N. force can take over. And that seems to be the course of action that will be taken.

It is not enough. The African Union force is doing a good job for the resources that they have, but they have no mobility, they have no charge to really keep the peace. But they are a presence and a respected one, and I admire the work that they are doing. But they can't do the job without funds, without mobility, the trucks, whatever, to move around quickly, because they are covering an area the size of Texas. This small band is covering an area the size of Texas. Mr. GREEN knows a lot about the size of Texas and the size of Darfur.

We also want to be able to bring our delegation, our delegation was a bipartisan group, together hopefully to meet with the President to set some goals, state the resolve, get the job done.

But this behavior that we saw in Darfur, the treatment of these people, was outside the circle of civilized human behavior.

What we saw from the authorities in the Sudan was denial of what was happening in Darfur. So that makes the challenge even greater. But if our word is to mean anything and our credibility is to be intact, we can't really say never again when we see the horrors of a genocide and the look in the eyes of the children to whom we owe more.

Many of us are very committed to our faith, whatever religion we espouse, and we are taught that we are all God's children and every person is made in the image and likeness of God and that we all carry a spark, a spark of divinity within us; and every person, therefore, is worthy of respect. I believe that is the case.

So what is the justice in these children and their families being at the mercy of the brutality that is being exacted upon them, without the whole world not only saying it but acting upon the words "never again."

So in that spirit I express my appreciation to Mr. PAYNE for his leadership. Nobody knows more on the subject, has

more dedication, and has been more courageous in going into places that have been a danger to him personally in order to represent the American people with great distinction and effectiveness. I thank you, Mr. PAYNE, and look to you for your ongoing leadership on this important issue.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

WHERE DO WE STAND?

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remind my colleagues that Dr. King was right when he proclaimed that the measure of a person is not where a person stands in times of comfort and convenience, but, rather, where a person stands in times of challenge and controversy.

I have a question for my colleagues, Mr. Speaker. The question is: Where do we stand on one of the great challenges and controversies of our time? Where do we stand, Mr. Speaker, on the question of genocide in Darfur? A question that transcends race because there really is but one race, and that is the human race; a question that transcends gender because what is happening in Darfur is happening to persons of both genders. Where do we stand on one of the great questions, one of the great controversies of our day?

It has been said that hundreds of thousands have been killed. Nobody really knows how many; millions displaced, but nobody really knows how many. Where do we stand on this great challenge and controversy of our time?

I have been to Darfur. I was there in the month of August. I have seen the throngs of humanity living in huts made of straw, living on the ground and off of the land, persons living under conditions that we would not want animals and lower life forms to live under. I have seen these conditions. No running water, no electricity, no sanitation facilities. Where do we stand on one of the great challenges and controversies of our time?

I met with the general of the AU forces. He made it very clear that they were being outgunned, that they were being overpowered under certain circumstances, that they needed help, and he would welcome the presence of the U.N. forces. Where do we stand on one of the great challenges and controversies of our time?

We met with NGOs. They told us of how 11-year-old babies had been raped, and how the government would not allow an offense report to be filed. File an incident report, say that it happened, but don't give enough details so that a proper prosecution could take place. Where do we stand on one of the great challenges and controversies of our time?

I met with former rebel leaders who are now part of the government. They want the U.N. forces. They understand that genocide is still taking place in Darfur. They understand that unless we have outside intervention, it will continue. Where do we stand on this great challenge and controversy of our time?

A superpower has to have super vision. Where there is no vision, the people perish. And when a superpower doesn't have super vision, you have super deaths, super atrocities. Where do we stand on one of the great challenges of our time?

Mr. Speaker, Mr. PAYNE, members of the CBC, Leader PELOSI, we stand with the people of Darfur, the indigenous population. We stand for justice, for the least, the last and the lost. We stand for making sure that no decent, self-respecting company does business with Darfur. Any company that does business with Darfur commits a sin. This is one of the great tragedies of our time. We stand for standing against those businesses that are allowing this tragedy to continue, because if you do business with this country, you are doing business with those who are perpetrating genocide.

So, Mr. Speaker, I want you to know that there are good people in this House, and we are calling on people of goodwill to take a stand against one of the great challenges and controversies of our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. HULSHOF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HULSHOF addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SKELTON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

GENOCIDE IN DARFUR

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentlewoman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative PAYNE for his leadership, and for being that lone voice many, many years ago, calling to our attention the atrocities, the genocide, that has been taking place in Darfur.

We have debated this genocide for nearly 2 years now. It is time for action. As we speak, the violence in Darfur escalates while the hands of the United Nations, quite frankly, are tied by Sudanese President al-Bashir.

Mr. Speaker, this is the moment of truth. The world is watching. Just yesterday, the President announced at the United Nations General Assembly that Andrew Natsios will serve as the President's Special Envoy for Sudan. A special envoy is long overdue.

The situation in Darfur has deteriorated rapidly over the last few months. Rapes have increased. There were about 500 rapes over the summer in one camp alone. Twelve humanitarian workers have been killed, including two in the last 4 weeks.

Mr. Speaker, 26,000 Sudan armed forces are headed to Darfur for major offensive. There has been renewed aerial bombardment. Twelve years ago, the world stood by when almost 1 million people were slaughtered in Rwanda. And for the most part the only thing our government did was say "I'm sorry," and that was after the fact.

Now we have said, "Not on our watch. We will not have another Rwanda," so our credibility, quite frankly, is on the line. We cannot let Darfur become another Rwanda. Already too many people, we are hearing upwards of 400,000 to 450,000 people have died. Too many women have been raped, too many villages have been burned, and too many people have been displaced.

I witnessed this ongoing tragedy on two occasions. The first time was in January of 2005 in a bipartisan delegation under the leadership of Chairman ED ROYCE. We visited the refugee camps in Chad and went into Darfur with two great humanitarian leaders, Don Cheadle, the brilliant Academy Award nominee, star of "Hotel Rwanda," and also Paul Rusase-bi-gee-na whose courage in Rwanda saved many, many lives.

During that visit we saw children and we talked to the children who were traumatized. Everyone was traumatized. You could see it in their eyes. They were dazed. The children painted pictures when we said what happened. They painted pictures of airplanes and helicopters with bombs dropping on the villages. Then at the bottom of picture, what was there but men on horseback with guns and with machetes burning down the villages and killing the people. This is what children saw and what they were communicating with us and begging and pleading us to stop.

Most recently, under the great leadership of Minority Leader NANCY